



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING
976 OSOS STREET • ROOM 200 • SAN LUIS OBISPO • CALIFORNIA 93408 • (805)781-5600

Project Title and No.: Agricultural Ponds and Reservoirs Interim Zoning/Urgency Ordinance / ED15-307

Project Location (Specific address [use APN or description when no situs available]):
County of San Luis Obispo

Project Applicant/Phone No./Email:
County San Luis Obispo/(805)781-5400/N/A
Applicant Address (Street, City, State, Zip):
976 Osos Street Room 300, SLO, CA 93408

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project

An interim zoning/urgency ordinance prohibiting the development of new agricultural ponds or reservoirs in the Inland area (does not include the Coastal Zone) of the unincorporated portions of San Luis Obispo County except for projects complying with certain permitting procedures and development restrictions. All districts.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of San Luis Obispo

Exempt Status: (Check One)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ministerial | {Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268} |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Declared Emergency | {Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a)} |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Emergency Project | {Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c)} |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Categorical Exemption. | {Sec. 15307; 15308 ; Class: 7, 8 } |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Statutory Exemption | {Sec. _____} |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | General Rule Exemption. | {Sec. 15061(b)(3)} |

Reasons why project is exempt: This Ordinance is necessary to preserve groundwater resources and restrict the development of new agricultural ponds or reservoirs. The approval of new agricultural ponds and reservoirs in the unincorporated county would threaten the public health, safety, and welfare by exacerbating declining groundwater levels and contributing to the failure of additional residential and agricultural wells. This urgency and interim zoning ordinance will allow County staff time to complete necessary studies and reports to analyze and address water supply and other environmental impacts of agricultural ponds and reservoirs while preserving groundwater resources.

This Ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code §21000, et seq.) ("CEQA") because:

1. Per CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3) – The urgency ordinance is not subject to CEQA due to the general rule that an action is not subject to CEQA where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that there will be a significant effect on the environment. The urgency ordinance provides for regulations to restrict the development of new agricultural ponds or reservoirs, thus will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment.
2. Per CEQA Guidelines §15307(Class 7) – The urgency ordinance consists of regulations and restrictions on activities to assure the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of County water supplies, a natural resource.
3. Per CEQA Guidelines §15308(Class 8) – The urgency ordinance consists of regulations and restrictions on activities to assure the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of the environment, including the County's water supplies and all of the people, species, and environs that rely on that resource.

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Airlin Singewald (asingewald@co.slo.ca.us)

(805)781-5600

Lead Agency Contact Person

Telephone

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding
2. Has a notice of exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes ☐ No ☐

Signature  Date 6/27/2016

Name (Print) Airlin Singewald Title Senior Planner

On _____ the project was Approved by:

☐ Board of Supervisors

☐ Subdivision Review Board

☐ Other _____

☐ Planning Commission

☐ Planning Dept Hearing
Officer



GENERAL RULE EXEMPTION - CHECKLIST

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**Project Title and No.: Agricultural Ponds and Reservoirs Interim Zoning/Urgency Ordinance
ED15-307**

Pursuant to section 15061 of the State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the preliminary review of a project includes a determination as to whether a project is exempt from CEQA. This checklist represents a summary of this project's review for exemption.

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
1. Does this project fall within any exempt class as listed in sections 15301 through 15329 of the State CEQA Guidelines?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Is there a reasonable possibility that the project could have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Is the project inconsistent with any Federal, State, or local law or administrative requirement relating to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Will the project involve substantial public controversy regarding environmental issues?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of achieving long-term environmental goals? (A short-term impact on the environment is one which occurs in a relatively brief, definitive period of time while long-term impacts will endure well into the future.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7. Does the project have adverse impacts which are individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant? Cumulatively significant means that the incremental effects of an individual project are substantially adverse when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

On the basis of this initial evaluation, I find that the proposed project does not have the potential to cause a significant effect on the environment, and is therefore exempt from CEQA.

Airlin Singewald (asingewald@co.slo.ca.us)

6/27/2016

for Ellen Carroll, Environmental Coordinator

Date

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